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Fifty-third session
Item 113 of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 5 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

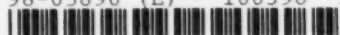
I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement concerning the upsurge of violence in Kosovo issued on 3 March 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning the upsurge of violence in Kosovo issued
on 3 March 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union is deeply concerned by the violent incidents in Kosovo over the past few days. The European Union unreservedly condemns the violent repression of non-violent expressions of political views, including peaceful demonstrations, as well as the use of violence and terrorism to achieve political goals. It regrets that police action led directly to civilian casualties. The European Union urges all sides to exercise restraint and refrain from further violence, and calls on the Serbian law enforcement agencies to respect fully human rights and the rule of law in the pursuit of their duties. The European Union reiterates its call as a matter of urgency for the authorities in Belgrade and leaders of the Kosovar Albanian community to resolve the situation peacefully through a full and constructive dialogue.



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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 9 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative
of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 15 January 1998, the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, issued a decree regarding the arrangements for celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The decree, inter alia, requests that the Parliament of Georgia declare 1998 the Year of Human Rights and announce 10 December 1998 as a national holiday.

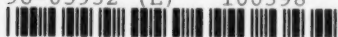
The document also provides that the Ministry of Education should submit to the Government of Georgia a programme on raising awareness of human rights and sponsor conferences, seminars and debates on human rights issues in institutions of secondary and higher learning throughout the country.

The Attorney General of Georgia has been called upon to hold meetings of relevant bodies to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to develop further the legal framework in the field of human rights.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of State Security have been ordered to work out the educational programme on human rights issues and to hold systematic staff meetings with a view to establishing strict control over the observance of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Georgian Television and Broadcasting Corporation has been requested to cover steadfastly the human rights situation in the country with a view to

* A/53/50.



keeping the population informed of the developments in the field of human rights.

The control over the implementation of the plan for action that envisions the holding of various conferences on human rights issues during 1998 has been delegated to the Deputy National Security Adviser on Human Rights Questions.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly under item 113 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS
QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE
APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE
EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 11 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the
General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the
Government of the Republic of Serbia on 10 March 1998 concerning the situation
in Kosovo and Metohija.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could
be circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General
Assembly, under agenda item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security
Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.



ANNEX

Statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on
10 March 1998 concerning the situation in Kosovo and Metohija

At its today's meeting, the Government of the Republic of Serbia reviewed the information of the relevant ministries on the situation in Kosovo and Metohija and, in that framework, the information of the Ministry of the Interior on the measures taken against terrorism, submitted by Colonel-General Vlastimir Djordjevic, Head of the Department for Public Security and Dragisa Ristivojevic, Deputy Head of the Department of State Security.

The Government assessed that the recent activities of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia in Kosovo and Metohija were carried out exclusively in the function of combatting terrorism, which has escalated in the past few months bringing about the loss of life of a great number of innocent citizens-Serbs, Albanians and members of the Ministry of the Interior.

Consequently, the Government noted that the undertaken measures had a strictly limited scope with a view to defending against ruthless attacks of terrorists and to liquidating the terrorist core, and that they were carried out respecting regulations and security of other citizens and of their property.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia condemns in the harshest terms the terrorism of the Albanian separatists in Kosovo and Metohija and confirms the readiness of all authorities in Serbia to ensure in Kosovo and Metohija, as in the rest of Serbia, the rule of law, full equality and life in peace and security of all citizens, regardless of their nationality.

Serbia makes a clear distinction between terrorists and terrorism on one hand, and the members of the Albanian national minority on the other, and calls upon responsible representatives of the Albanian national minority to disassociate themselves from terrorism and join in universal international condemnation of that scourge.

The Ministry of the Interior informed the public of all measures taken against the terrorists. Diplomatic representatives in Belgrade and foreign journalists were given the opportunity to visit the villages in the Drenica area where the activities against the terrorists were carried out and see for themselves that the activities of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia were strictly in the function of capturing terrorist gangs and preventing their activities.

In view of the fact that they were able to directly establish the actual state of affairs and that the authorities had nothing to hide, the Government considers that for the sake of full truth it would also be useful if an expert group of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited Kosovo and Metohija and in cooperation with the Yugoslav Red Cross, verified the rumours circulated in some media, and in that respect, extends an invitation to them to do so.

It is the long-standing policy of Serbia not to differentiate among its citizens on the basis of their national, religious or any other background. The Government of Serbia as well as all other authorities in the Republic equally care of all citizens of the Republic of Serbia and shall not allow in the future either any injustice against any of its citizens, including the members of national minorities whose rights are protected in the Republic of Serbia in accordance with the highest international standards.

The Government most resolutely confirms that all questions related to Kosovo and Metohija should be resolved within Serbia by political means and in accordance with international standards in the field of protection of the rights of national minorities. There is a consensus of all political forces and parties of influence in the Republic on that score, as well as the position of the relevant international factors, representing the best guarantee for its successful resolution.

The Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm that it is open to have all questions related to the realization of civil and human rights of all citizens in Kosovo and Metohija as well as of faster economic and cultural development, resolved through dialogue and by political means, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, European and international standards, OSCE principles, Paris Charter and the Charter of the United Nations. The Government particularly points out that it accepts that all rights and principles contained in the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe on the protection of national minorities be realized in this way.

By its overall policy and concrete measures, the Government shall ensure conditions for a stable political, economic and cultural development, promotion of relations of tolerance and trust among all

citizens in Kosovo and Metohija. The Government proves this readiness by the fact that its representatives in the Group 3+3 have in the usual manner already submitted their proposal of operative measures for the implementation of the Agreement on the normalization of the education system in Kosovo and Metohija.

In accordance with the above positions, the Government of the Republic of Serbia invites the responsible representative of the Albanian national minority to embark upon open dialogue in order to resolve all concrete issues, because it is the only way to promote political processes with a view to resolving vital questions of the citizens in this Province of ours.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia once again stresses that the only perspective of Kosovo and Metohija is in peace, development, tolerance, equality and co-existence.



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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS
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APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE
ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 12 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 11 March 1998 concerning the situation in Kosovo and Metohija.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

Statement issued by the Federal Government of the Federal
Republic of Yugoslavia on 11 March 1998

At its meeting today, chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Radoje Kontic, the Federal Government considered the statement of the Ministerial Meeting of the Contact Group held in London on 9 March 1998.

While it appreciates the condemnation of separatism and terrorism in the statement of the Contact Group, the Federal Government does not accept the attempts to internationalize any internal question of the Republic of Serbia or the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Federal Government considers that there is no basis for that either in the international legal system or in international practice.

What is at stake is interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign and independent country. The Federal Government points out that terrorism is an evil in Europe and the world and that it is dangerous to apply double standards to it. It is the legitimate right and obligation of every country to oppose energetically the phenomenon of terrorism as a method of achieving political goals. The eradication of terrorism requires a clear, unequivocal condemnation of that evil by all elements, in particular by the responsible forces and leaders of the members of the Albanian national minority.

The Federal Government considers that dealing with purely internal questions of a country at international meetings and threats to introduce measures of pressure constitute a flagrant violation of the international legal system and an attempt to create a precedent with unforeseeable consequences for international relations.

Respecting as it does all human and minority rights and standards established by the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Document 1992 and the Charter of Paris, as well as the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Federal Government considers that these documents provide a framework for the solution of all questions in Kosovo and Metohija through dialogue, by political means, within the constitutional system of the Republic of Serbia.

To that end, the Federal Government fully supports the positions of the Government of the Republic of Serbia presented in its statement of 10 March 1998 (S/1998/225, annex) and the call for an open dialogue aimed at finding solutions to all concrete questions.

The Federal Government also fully supports the policy, measures and efforts of the Republic of Serbia aimed at achieving stable social development in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija under the conditions of tolerance and the full equality of all citizens, irrespective of nationality and religious affiliation, which is the basis of every democratic, multi-ethnic society.

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The Federal Government confirms also on this occasion its readiness to cooperate with the international community on the basis of full equality, with respect for the legitimate interests, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the constitutional and legal system of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in accordance with the international legal system.

The Federal Government calls upon all responsible international actors to refrain from all steps or acts which lend encouragement to the separatist elements in Kosovo and Metohija, in particular from taking any unfounded measures contrary to the recognized constructive policy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a constituent of lasting peace, stability and good-neighbourliness in this part of Europe.



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ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 12 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 11 March 1998 on the appointment of its negotiators to the talks with the representatives of the Albanian national minority of Kosovo and Metohija.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly under item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.



Annex

Statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Serbia
on 11 March 1998

The Serbian Government, in keeping with its decision of 10 March 1998, has appointed its representatives to the talks with the leaders of ethnic Albanian parties and associations, public figures from (Serbia's southern province of) Kosovo-Metohija and all persons considered as representatives of the Albanian national minority, in order to give an impetus to political processes and to resolving specific issues vital to the inhabitants of the province.

The Serbian Government will be represented by Deputy Prime Minister Prof. Ratko Markovic and ministers Ratomir Vico, Andrea Milosavljevic and Ivan Sedlak.

The Government reiterates its readiness to use dialogue and political means to resolve all issues regarding the exercise of human and civil rights of all citizens in Kosovo-Metohija, as well as all issues regarding faster economic and cultural development in line with Serbia's Constitution, European and international standards, the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Charter of Paris, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles contained in the Council of Europe Framework Convention on minority protection.

The Serbian Government urges all parliamentary parties to appoint one representative each for participation in the talks in order to ensure a unified approach of the Serbian Parliament to resolving the Kosovo-Metohija issues.

Serbian Government representatives and representatives of the Albanian national minority will initiate open and public talks in government offices in Pristina on Thursday, 12 March 1998.

The Serbian Government considers this statement as a public invitation to the talks in Pristina on Thursday.



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Fifty-third session
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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY -
PREVENTION OF THE VIOLENT
DISINTEGRATION OF STATES
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL
RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 13 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative
of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of countries of south-eastern Europe, Mr. Andrei Plesu, Mr. Blagoi Handziski, Mr. Ismail Cem, Mrs. Nadezhda Mihaylova and Mr. Theodoros Pangalos, concerning the situation in Kosovo, which was adopted at Sofia on 10 March 1998.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 65 and 113 (c) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Philip DIMITROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Joint declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of
countries of south-eastern Europe concerning the situation
in Kosovo, adopted at Sofia on 10 March 1998

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of countries of south-eastern Europe, Mr. Andrei Plesu, Mr. Blagoi Handziski, Mr. Ismail Cem, Mrs. Nadezhda Mihaylova and Mr. Theodoros Pangalos, express their serious concern with the deteriorating situation in Kosovo and with the grave consequences of an inter-ethnic conflict and its possible spillover in the region.

The Ministers declare the commitment of their States to take all appropriate steps in order to prevent such a development in the region of south-eastern Europe.

The Ministers reiterate that a first step to reduce tensions in Kosovo is the initiation of a genuine dialogue between the Serb authorities and the ethnic Albanians, and call on both parties to take prompt measures to that end. Both parties should condemn and refrain from use of violence as a means to resolve their conflict.

They deeply regret the suppression by the Serbian police of peaceful demonstrations in Kosovo and the subsequent unrestrained use of force that has resulted in fatalities. At the same time, they urge all organizations of the Kosovo Albanian community to make clear their opposition to violence and terrorism as tools to seek change. They condemn terrorist actions to achieve political goals, as well as violence as a means to repress political views.

The Ministers call for the full respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the ethnic Albanian population. They declare that a lasting solution to the Kosovo problem can be based only on the full protection of the rights of Albanians, Serbs and all others living in Kosovo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki principles and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) standards.

The Ministers call for the immediate and full implementation of the agreement on education concluded in 1996 between President Milosevic and Mr. Rugova, leader of the Albanians in Kosovo.

The Ministers underline that the solution to the Kosovo problem should be sought with full respect to the existing borders. They call on all organizations of the ethnic Albanians to deny any secessionist policies and to respect fully the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Ministers call on Belgrade to face the problems with utmost responsibility and to search for mutually acceptable solutions based on granting a large autonomy for Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Ministers believe that the integration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the international community would be to the benefit of that

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country and would strengthen the stability of the region. They also recognize that considerable progress towards the solution of the Kosovo issue will contribute to this end.

The Ministers call on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to enable the return of the international monitors in Kosovo as a means of preventive diplomacy.

The Ministers declare the readiness of their States to play an active role in the efforts to find a peaceful and political solution to all issues related to the Kosovo problem. Within this framework, they also welcome the initiatives of the United States of America, the European Union and the Contact Group.

The Ministers call on all States in the region and beyond to support this declaration and to join the efforts towards preserving peace, stability and security in south-eastern Europe.



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16 March 1998

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Items 96 (d) and 98 of the
preliminary list*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 9 March 1998 from the Permanent Representatives
of Japan and Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the Co-Chairmen's summary report of the First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II), which was organized by the Government of Japan, the United Nations and the Global Coalition for Africa, and was hosted by the Government of Senegal in Dakar on 2 and 3 March 1998 (annex I), and the list of participants of the meeting (annex II).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 96 (d) and 98 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Hisashi OWADA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Japan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Ibra Deguène KA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Senegal
to the United Nations

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX I

Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development

First Preparatory Committee Meeting, held on 2 and 3 March 1998, in Dakar

Co-Chairmen's Summary

I. Introduction

The first Preparatory Committee meeting held in Dakar from 2-3 March 1998 was attended by representatives of all 24 members. A list of participants is attached. The meeting was co-chaired by S.E. M. Fode Seck, Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Senegal), and H. E. Mr. Kunio Katakura, Ambassador for TICAD (Japan). Dr. Mulatu Teshome, Vice-Minister of Economic Development and Cooperation (Ethiopia) was elected as rapporteur of the meeting.

This summary was prepared to serve as a basis for formulating a preliminary draft of the "Agenda for Action" for consideration by the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee to be held in Harare in June 1998. The second meeting will also take into account the inputs from the forthcoming Regional Workshops in May 1998.

II. Overall Structure of the Agenda for Action, Main Messages and Approaches (Chapter 1 and 2)

The structure of the Agenda for Action as proposed by the co-organizers was endorsed by the participants of the Preparatory Committee as a basis for preparing a preliminary draft.

With regard to the proposed message of TICAD II, i.e. "revitalized growth for poverty alleviation and strengthening Africa's participation in the global economy", the concept of "sustainability" of economic growth was stressed as critical. Some participants expressed the view that the term "revitalized" growth does not correctly reflect the recent progress made in a number of African economies and a suggestion was made to change it to "accelerated" growth.

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The key concepts of the Agenda for Action, i.e. "the ownership by African countries and the global partnership", received strong endorsement. It was suggested that the Cairo Agenda for Action reflects African priorities and need to be better integrated into the TICAD II Agenda for Action, including the issue of industrial development.

The participants endorsed approaches and emphasis of the Agenda for Action (strengthening coordination, regional cooperation, South-South cooperation, capacity building and gender in development). The participants stressed the importance of strengthening coordination of not only multi-lateral and bilateral development assistance but also various initiatives on African development. At the same time, it was generally agreed that South-South cooperation, especially Asia-Africa cooperation, should be the value-added and center-piece of TICAD II. It was also suggested that TICAD II should produce action-oriented guidelines which can result in concrete activities.

III. Areas of Cooperation (Chapter 3)

1. Social Development

Poverty Alleviation

The participants agreed that poverty alleviation is a great challenge, which entails a multi-disciplinary approach involving long-term planning and strategy. Economic growth is a necessary condition for poverty alleviation. Integration of the poor into the development process is essential through the creation of income generating activities, opportunity for self-employment, mobilization of domestic savings and increased access to land and credit. Public sector planning and budgetary allocation for human development, particularly, for the poor, including women, female-headed families, refugees and displaced persons, are critical to achieve long-term poverty reduction goals. Infrastructure including rural roads, potable water supply, energy supply and communication needs to be enhanced in order to improve the living conditions of the poor.

Education

The participants acknowledged the education sector as a priority area that cuts across all aspects of social development. Human capital development is the foundation for national

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development and contributes to poverty alleviation. The participants generally endorsed the goals and objectives presented by the co-organizers, while it was observed that the goals should be realistic and country specific. Country specific strategies, sectoral policies and investment programs need to be established with adequate resources. The need was expressed for coordination of resources coming from the public sector and the international community, including bilateral and multi-lateral donors. The participants recognized the linkages between education, health, nutrition and population, and stressed the important role played by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). While all levels of education (primary, secondary and tertiary) require further support, the focus should be placed on adult literacy and basic education for all, with particular consideration to gender-balanced education as well as vocational training for employment generation. Infrastructure for the education sector requires further support. Capacity building in science and technology, and networking among regional and sub-regional institutions were emphasized.

Health

Maternal and child mortality and morbidity as well as infant mortality are linked to the standard of living. The health sector strategy should include a national investment program as exemplified by some African countries including Senegal. Best practices and successful lessons drawn from the Asian experiences in this area should also be shared. HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, tuberculosis, childhood illnesses are priority areas. TICAD II should also serve to draw the attention of the international community to the need to eradicate several other tropical illnesses. Safe water supply in both rural and urban areas is a prerequisite for reducing the spread of diseases. Assessing the capacities and needs of partner developing countries is necessary to promote South-South cooperation and to tap the relevant capacities of centers of excellence in the South.

Population

Each country should continue the national debate involving all key actors, including public, private and civil society in formulating its population policy which should result in a Population Policy Declaration and/or a policy that provides the framework for partnership. The participants proposed to add to the identified goals, the need for information, education and sensitization with respect to spacing, STD and family size. The issues pertaining to urbanization and migration which have an impact on population policy should also be included. Resettlement schemes for migrants, /...

including refugees and displaced populations, should be an integral part of national population strategies, targeting refugees and displaced populations. The return and re-integration policy of skilled personnel should be pursued in order to reverse the brain drain and revitalize the economy.

2. Private Sector Development

There was unanimity of views on the crucial role that the private sector can play in African development. While there was broad consensus on the proposed objectives and goals, some participants suggested that the action-oriented guidelines may need to be structured into a logical and coherent framework. In particular, actions to be taken by African governments, and supportive measures to be undertaken by Africa's external partners, need to be identified. In this respect, participants underlined the need for development partners to facilitate market access for African products, encourage technology transfer, as well as to assist the development of Africa's infrastructure. It was also noted that South-South cooperation, including the sharing of experiences between Asia and Africa, is particularly relevant in this area.

The importance of institutional development, particularly the reform and strengthening of the legal and regulatory systems, was emphasized. Several participants proposed that it may be useful to define and address the promotion of the private sector by categorizing enterprises into large, medium and small-scale, and micro-enterprises including informal businesses. Some participants expressed the view that financial sector development and the mobilization of domestic savings for investment are essential requirements for private sector growth. It was also observed that support and promotion of the domestic private sector is a pre-requisite for attracting foreign direct investment. The need was also stressed for private sector organizations at the national, sub-regional and regional levels to be clearly identified and involved in the TICAD process. In this regard the meeting was informed that the private sector will be involved in the TICAD-II programs, as well as in some of the preparatory activities leading to the plenary.

The participants discussed a proposal to treat "industrialization" as an independent area of cooperation in the Agenda for Action. It was the general view that the proposal touched upon an important aspect of the long-term development of the continent. Many participants agreed that "industrial development" would be a clearer concept which better reflects the critical role of the

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private sector. It was also stressed that the role of governments should be to create an environment conducive to private sector development. Several participants suggested that the best way of handling the issue may be within the context of an overarching objective of private sector-led development. The discussion led to the agreement by the participants that the proposal should be incorporated in drafting the Agenda for Action taking into account these modifications and suggestions. The participants also discussed action-oriented guidelines that could support industrial development. This includes such aspects as entrepreneurship, processing industry, technology transfer, and infrastructure development.

3. Agriculture and Environment

While emphasizing that environment is closely linked with sustainable agricultural development, the participants agreed that environment is a cross-cutting issue and should be also treated appropriately in Chapter 2. A suggestion was made that the Agenda for Action could include a follow-up of the implementation of the Rio Convention. The participants strongly endorsed the need for combating desertification and expressed support for the UN Convention to combat desertification and Asia-Africa fora in this effort. Asia-Africa cooperation was also emphasized as an effective modality in promoting the exchanges of expertise in agricultural research, as well as the cooperation in such activities as rice farming and fresh water fishery.

The participants expressed the need to take into account the African Common Policy on Agriculture and Food Security in the Agenda for Action. Ensuring food security was endorsed as an important objective in agriculture. The participants agreed that such aspects as livestock, fishery, water resource management across borders, and locust control should also be dealt with in the Agenda for Action. It was suggested that the issue of rural finance, particularly micro-credit for small farmers, need to be addressed as well. Gender consideration was also emphasized as central to agricultural production.

It was further suggested that the mechanism for price stabilization of agricultural commodities should be addressed in the Agenda for Action. The issue of market access for agricultural products was also mentioned as important.

The participants endorsed strengthened effort for more effective coordination of development assistance to national agricultural development strategies.

4. Governance

The participants recognized respect for human and civil rights, free and fair elections, and rule of law as essential elements of good governance. They agreed on the desirability of the separation of administrative, legislative and judicial powers, and strengthening of democratic institutions and civil society organizations. Participants called for support to regional and national organizations advocating human rights and promoting activities of civil society. Decentralization and devolution of administrative powers to provincial and local governments should be facilitated, and the capacity of the local authorities should be strengthened. Transparency and accountability are regarded as essential for efficient and effective functioning of the government. It was suggested that the government, public institutions, the civil society and the private sector conduct their working relationship in a transparent and accountable manner. Participants agreed to study, for possible inclusion in the Agenda for Action, the main features of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Public Foreign Officials in International Business Transactions as an instrument for observing and maintaining a code of conduct of public officials and to eradicate corruption.

5. Conflict, Peace and Development

The participants pointed out the need to strengthen regional, sub-regional and national capabilities for conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as the need to address recovery and rehabilitation requirements in the post-conflict phase. They considered it desirable to coordinate the conflict related activities carried out by the United Nations, OAU and sub-regional organizations, and to strengthen the capacity of OAU Conflict Management mechanism and other existing regional institutions involved in information gathering, early warning and other conflict management activities such as training. The role of civil society and non-governmental organizations should also be strengthened. The participants found it necessary to make a comprehensive needs assessment for post-conflict areas, e.g. the Great Lakes region, and to recognize the importance of providing support for the re-settlement of refugees and displaced persons and proposed to establish a sub-title for this issue. Comprehensive assistance including

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vocational training should be provided for de-mobilized soldiers to enable them to return to civilian life. They also attached importance to facilitating reconciliation through dialogue. The constructive role of women should be encouraged in conflict prevention management and reconciliation process.

6. Others

External Debt

The participants were provided with information on the implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Explanations were provided with respect to the eligibility criteria and the ongoing review so as to accommodate more potentially eligible countries. It was noted only a few countries benefited from the initiative so far, and that efforts are under way to provide more flexibility. It was also noted by some participants that the debt relief provided under the HIPC Initiative is not as substantial as expected by African countries.

Some participants also suggested that debt relief should go beyond the HIPC Initiative, and that in this regard, there is also a need for technical assistance in debt management and resource mobilization including Official Development Assistance (ODA). Some also argued that existing mechanisms, such as the Naples Terms in the framework of the Paris Club would have to be improved in view of the fact that only a few African countries are likely to benefit from the HIPC Initiative. A more comprehensive approach was felt necessary by some participants, and the TICAD II process could help in this regard.

The participants and co-organizers expressed their deep appreciation to the Senegalese government for hosting this first Preparatory Committee Meeting.

ANNEX II

Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development

First Preparatory Committee Meeting, held on
2 and 3 March 1998, in Dakar

List of participants

1. African countries

Cameroon

1. M. Jean-Baptiste DJOUMESSI
Directeur de la Planification, Ministère des Investissements publics
et de l'aménagement du territoire
2. M. Emmanuel MBARGA
Charge d'Études assistant, Responsable de la Coopération avec le
Japon, Ministère des Investissements publics et de l'aménagement du
territoire

Egypt

1. Ambassador Ashraf RASHED
Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for African Organizations and
Groupings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ms. Mona KHASHABA
Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Egypt in Senegal

Ethiopia

1. Dr. Teshome MULATU
Vice-Minister for Economic Development and Cooperation,
Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation
2. Mr. Mohammed KAHIN
Ambassador to Senegal

Mozambique

1. Mr. Luis Adelino de SILVA
Deputy Director for Multilateral Economic Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
2. Ms. Maria GUSTAVA
Head, Department for Multilateral Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

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Nigeria

1. Mr. Alhaji Muhammad Lele MUHTAR
Permanent Secretary, National Planning Commission
2. Mr. Tijjani UMAR
Principal Administrative Officer (International Cooperation), National Planning Commission

Senegal

1. S.E. M. Fodé SECK
Ambassadeur, Secrétaire général du Ministère des affaires étrangères et des Sénégalais de l'extérieur, Chef de Délégation
2. S.E. M. Cheikh SYLLA, Ambassadeur, Directeur des Organisations internationales, Ministère des affaires étrangères et des Sénégalais d'extérieur
3. M. Aliou SECK, Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre de l'Économie, des finances et du plan
4. M. Mamadou NDONG, Conseiller technique, Présidence de la République
5. M. Cheikh NIANG, Conseiller diplomatique du Président de la République
6. M. Moubarack LO, Conseiller technique, Primature
7. M. Diegane Samba THIOUNE, Conseiller technique no. 5, Chargé de l'intérim du Directeur Afrique-Asie
8. M. Momar GUEYE, Chef de la Division universelle, Ministère des Affaires étrangères et des Sénégalais de l'extérieur
9. M. Babacar DIOP, Conseiller technique, Ministère des Affaires étrangères et des Sénégalais de l'extérieur
10. M. Malik Thierno SOW, Chargé de l'interim du Chef de la Division Asie
11. M. El Habib LY, Directeur, Unité de Production agricole, Ministère de l'Agriculture
12. M. Mame Cor SENE, Coordonnateur de l'Unité de Politique économique, Ministère de l'Économie, des finances et du plan
13. M. Demba DIOP, Conseiller technique, Ministère des Mines, de l'énergie et de l'industrie
14. M. Papa Birama THIAM, Directeur de l'Assistance technique, Ministère de la Modernisation de l'État

15. M. Amadou Habi bou NDIAYE, Directeur du Commerce extérieur, Ministère du Commerce de l'artisan et de l'industrialisation
16. M. Alassane NIANE, Chargé d'Études à la Délégation aux Affaires scientifiques et techniques, Ministère de la Recherche scientifique et de la technologie
17. M. Mansour CAMA, Président de la Coordination patronale du Senegal
18. M. Papa Jean FALL, Secrétaire général de la Coordination patronale du Senegal

South Africa

1. Mr. Henri S. RAUBENHEIMER
Deputy Director (International Development), Department of Foreign Affairs
2. Mr. Christian A. BASSON
Director, East Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Republic of Tanzania

1. Ambassador Richard E. MARIKI
Permanent Secretary in the President's Office, Planning Commission
2. Mr. Gaspar Y. HAKILI
Acting Director of the Asia and Australasia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

2. Asian countries

Indonesia

1. Professor Mohammad SADLI
Member, Economic Team of the President
2. H.E. Mr. TRENGGONO
Ambassador to Senegal

Thailand

1. H.E. Mr. Saiyud NOKNOI
Ambassador to Senegal
2. Ms. Kundalee PRACHIMDHIT
Director, Division of Economic Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

3. Donor countries

Canada

Mr. Jean-Claude LORIN
Senior Adviser, Policy and Planning Division, Africa and Middle East
Branch, Canadian International Development Agency

France

Mr. Henri-Luc THIBAUT
Chef du Département des Affaires multilatérales,
Secrétariat d'État à la Coopération et à la Francophonie

Sweden

Mr. Rasmus RASMUSSEN
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. H.E. Mr. David SNOXELL
Ambassador to Senegal
2. Mr. Bryan CRESS
Head, African Policy Unit, Department for International Development

United States of America

Ms. Melissa S. WILLIAMS
Supervisory Project Development Officer,
United States Agency for International Development

4. International organizations

African Development Bank

Mr. Temitope OSHIKOYA
Chief, Research Division

European Union

Mr. Friedrich HAMBURGER
Director for Development

Economic Commission for Africa

1. Mr. Samba JACK
Director, Programme Planning, Finance and Evaluation Division
2. Mr. John Sande KANYARUBONA
Senior Policy and Programme Analyst

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International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Mr. Praful C. PATEL
Chief, Regional Front Office, Africa Vice-President

International Monetary Fund

Mr. Michael DESSART
Senior Resident Representative in Senegal

Organization of African Unity

Dr. Hassan W. ELHASSAN
Officer in Charge of Research, Planning and Population Division,
Department of Economic Development and Cooperation

5. Co-organizers

Government of Japan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. Ambassador Kunio KATAKURA for the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development
2. Mr. Seiji HINATA
Deputy Director-General, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau
3. Mr. Fumiaki TAKAHASHI
Deputy Director-General, Economic Cooperation Bureau
4. Mr. Kaoru ISHIKAWA
Minister, Embassy of Japan in France
5. Mr. Wataru NISHIGAHIRO
Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
6. Mr. Kiyokazu OTA
Director, Second Africa Division, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau
7. Mr. Takashi OKADA
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
8. Mr. Takashi KOIZUMI
Assistant Director, Development Cooperation Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau
9. Mr. Keisuke TAMURA
Officer, Second Africa Division, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau

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10. Mr. Hiroyuki YAMAYA
Officer, First Africa Division, Middle Eastern and African Affairs
Bureau
11. Ms. Keiko KOKUBUN
Officer, Second Africa Division, Middle Eastern and African Affairs
Bureau

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least
Developed Countries

Dr. Makha D. SARR
Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries

United Nations Development Programme

Regional Bureau for Africa

1. Mr. Alieu SALLAH
Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director
2. Ms. Mieko Ikegame
Senior Programme Manager for the Second Tokyo International Conference
on African Development
3. Ms. Deidra PARKER
Programme Assistant

Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Sukehiro HASEGAWA
Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director

Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

Ms. Joan W. ARCHER
Senior Regional Officer of Africa

Global Coalition for Africa

1. Mr. Tesfaye DINKA
Senior Adviser
2. Mr. Herman COHEN
Senior Adviser



General Assembly
Security Council

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A/53/86
S/1998/240
17 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Item 113 (b) of the preliminary list*
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS
QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE
APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE
EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 16 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 15 March 1998 from
Mr. Mirko Marjanović, President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, to
Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red
Cross.

I would be very grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the
present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly,
under item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.



ANNEX

Letter dated 15 March 1998 from the President of the Government
of the Republic of Serbia to the President of the International
Committee of the Red Cross

Terrorism has become, as you know, a great danger to modern humanity. No one can deny the legitimate right of every country to fight against this common evil by any means necessary.

I assure you that the recent actions of police forces of the Republic of Serbia in Kosovo and Metohija have been carried out exclusively in the function of combating terrorism, which escalated in the past months, bringing about suffering of a great number of innocent citizens. The Serbs and the members of the police force were not the only victims of ever more frequent terrorist attacks; even a greater number of victims were from among the members of the Albanian national minority, only because they expressed their loyalty to the State which they live in.

Instead of showing understanding for justified measures undertaken against terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija, diverse disinformation emerged followed by unfounded criticism of the actions of state authorities of the Republic of Serbia.

I wish to assure you that the authorities of the Republic of Serbia make a clear distinction between terrorists and terrorism on the one hand, and the members of national minorities, on the other. The measures undertaken, of an exclusively defensive nature, aimed against unscrupulous and well-organized terrorist attacks, were strictly limited and have been carried out respecting the regulations and the security of citizens and their property.

Appreciating as we do the experiences and the reputation of your organization throughout the world, as well as its status, I wish to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Serbia would gladly accept the presence of an ad hoc delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kosovo and Metohija, which would have the opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge of the actual state of affairs.

Having all that in mind, I take this opportunity to invite you to designate an ad hoc team of impartial and recognized experts, with equitable representation from different countries, which would, in cooperation with the experts of the Yugoslav Red Cross, be informed on site, through the inspection of forensic documentation, of the facts concerning the actions undertaken against the terrorist in Kosovo and Metohija, as well as of the consequences of the terrorist attacks on Serbs, policemen and the members of the Albanian national minority.

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. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia are ready, as may be necessary after the inspection of forensic documentation, to exhume the bodies of the buried victims for the purposes of the representatives of your ad hoc team, in order to eliminate all suspicions and to obtain a clear picture of the consequences of the terrorists' actions and the fight against terrorism.

(Signed) Mirko MARJANOVIĆ
President of the Government
of the Republic of Serbia



General Assembly

Distr.
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A/53/87
17 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-third session
Items 106 and 107 of the
preliminary list*

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH
WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Letter dated 13 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed
to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Santiago Consensus, which was adopted by the Governments of the Latin American and Caribbean countries at the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile, from 19 to 21 November 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 106 and 107 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Juan LARRAÍN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.



ANNEX

[Original: English, French
and Spanish]

Santiago Consensus, adopted by the Regional Conference on the
Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development
of Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Santiago from
19 to 21 November 1997

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of
Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventh session,

Recalling that at its sixth session, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in September 1994, the Regional Conference identified the obstacles to the improvement of women's living conditions and position in society and formulated the proposals contained in the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, adopted at that session,¹

Taking into account that, in the light of the international priorities identified by the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations on the basis of the Platform for Action,² and the regional priorities emanating from the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, the Presiding Officers elected at the sixth session of the Regional Conference—in consultation with member countries—established the goal for the seventh session of identifying more precisely the obstacles to the effective practice by women of their citizenship, particularly with respect to access to power and participation in decision-making, as well as those stemming from poverty, with a view to proposing measures to overcome them more rapidly,

1. Welcomes the documents prepared by the secretariat for the seventh session of the Regional Conference, acknowledging that they reflect the requirements expressed by the Governments with respect to the topics addressed therein;³

2. Notes with satisfaction that during the 1990s, the issue of gender has received growing attention in other intergovernmental forums, among others United Nations world conferences and the following regional meetings:

a) The Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication (28 October-1 November 1996), which adopted the Directional Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication in the Caribbean;

¹ The Regional Programme of Action for Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, which was approved by the Governments at the sixth session of the Regional Conference, updates the Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in Havana in 1977 at the first session of the Regional Conference.

² These priorities are listed in the report of the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 1995.

³ Especially with reference to the analysis and proposals contained in the documents entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1063(CRM.7/4)) and "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1064 (CRM.7/5)).

b) The First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (São Paulo, 6-9 April 1997), which adopted the Consensus of São Paulo;⁴

c) The CARICOM/ECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference (Georgetown, 6-8 August 1997), which adopted the Georgetown Consensus;

3. Reaffirms the agreements and commitments made at those meetings and at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995);

4. Notes with satisfaction that in the period since the Fourth World Conference on Women there has been a strong move towards the inclusion of the issue of gender on governmental agendas and in State machinery, including the establishing and strengthening of national machineries for women's development in the region, and that various countries have adopted plans to promote equal opportunities for women in which, *inter alia*, measures are proposed for eradicating poverty and increasing women's participation in decision-making processes and their access to power;

5. Notes with interest the continuing work of women parliamentarians, politicians and ministers, who have been promoting the issue of gender at decision-making levels, as well as strengthening the coordination of women's non-governmental organizations at the regional, subregional and national levels;

6. Emphasizes the importance of the elements of the diagnostic analysis contained in the reports of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity towards the year 2000" and "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000";

7. Proposes, three years after the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,⁵ which served as the regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women:

a) To accelerate the process of implementation and follow-up of the Platform for Action, the Regional Programme of Action and the CARICOM Plan of Action, by incorporating into national development strategies solutions to the problem of the inequality of women through public policies and programmes at the national level to train skilled human resources, productive employment programmes, changes in school curricula, amendments to existing legislation and the inclusion of the gender perspective in all programmes;

⁴ For the full text of the Consensus of São Paulo, see ECLAC, Report of the First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (LC/G.1972(CONF.86/4)), Santiago, Chile, 1997.

⁵ The sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by ECLAC in pursuance of its resolution 509(XXIII), was held in Mar del Plata in September 1994.

- b) To apply to development an integrated approach linking social and economic policies in order to achieve equity, bearing in mind that, if development is to be sustainable, the gender perspective must be explicitly brought into these policies, since all plans, programmes and policies inevitably embody a certain viewpoint on gender and determine on that basis what roles individuals should play in society; to ensure that plans and programmes fully incorporate an appropriate gender perspective in their policies and decisions ("mainstreaming") and provide for the equitable distribution of resources in society;
- c) To ensure, in the course of the modernization of the government apparatus and public-sector reform which is under way in virtually all the countries of the region, that priority is given by the State to the social development agenda;
- d) To strengthen national mechanisms or government offices for the promotion of women in the technical, budgetary and politico-administrative spheres, in order to enable them effectively to exercise their functions of managing and monitoring public policies to foster gender equity, which is the responsibility of all State entities;
- e) To allocate in the national budget the necessary resources for the implementation of actions towards women's advancement, especially those oriented to eradicating poverty among women and providing women with greater access to decision-making positions;
- f) To incorporate the development of gender indicators by gathering all statistical information disaggregated by sex, especially in national censuses, economic and household surveys and other statistical registers; to create a data bank of gender indicators that can be periodically updated;
- g) To stress the need for a participatory, coherent and coordinated approach among all partners in development in the implementation of national poverty eradication plans or programmes that fully take into account the gender perspective;
- h) To introduce a gender perspective in environmental planning in order to ensure the inclusion of women in decision-making and in the evaluation of the impact of natural disasters, in keeping with the important contribution of women to economic and social development and environmental protection, which are mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;
- i) To design and implement policies to encourage women's participation at the national, federal and local level; to incorporate the gender perspective in local government agendas and policies, especially those concerning training; and to use networks of women's organizations to strengthen their activities and establish alliances with other institutions;
- j) To incorporate gender analysis into studies of migratory movements, since the figures reveal an increasingly significant involvement of women in the phenomenon; to incorporate analysis of such aspects as the special features of migration deriving from women's involvement, the impact it has on children, the disadvantages women face in comparison with men in the receiving cities, and the fact that in many communities male migration leaves women to cope with the problems of family subsistence and management of the household's resources; to identify and analyse not only international migration, but also emerging phenomena such as movements of temporary workers and migrants and migration within and between cities, which have increased considerably over the past few decades;

k) To promote respect for the human rights of women who are refugees, migrants, internally displaced or otherwise uprooted and face problems of security due to the situation in which they live and their gender, as well as women who are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation;

l) To encourage the countries to pass and review legislation concerning the situation of refugees and displaced persons so that it incorporates the gender perspective and explicitly recognizes gender-based persecution as one of the grounds on which a person may be considered a refugee;

m) To urge that all persons, especially women and girls and among them especially those who live in rural areas, are members of indigenous groups, or are uprooted, have the proper legal documentation, so that they are guaranteed the exercise of their rights;

n) To promote the recognition that power-sharing in all spheres, from private to public is the key objective towards which all actions should converge, since it is an essential requirement of democracy, and to promote the reinforcement of women's role as citizens, understood as their active participation in society via access to all decision-making levels;⁶

o) To give stronger consideration to affirmative, positive action, including such mechanisms as establishing a minimum percentage of representation for both sexes, in order to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in political representation, boards, commissions and other public appointments, and in the granting of national honours and awards, bearing in mind that some Governments within the region have already agreed to this;

p) To promote the establishment and support the strengthening and work of women's organizations and networks in order to help reinforce their capacity to influence public and political affairs in the countries;

q) To undertake to develop and institutionalize systems for structuring and compiling sex-disaggregated information on political participation, focusing on the differential access of women and men to political decision-making positions in organized civil society; to disseminate such information widely on a regular basis;

r) To design and develop, as part of the plans, programmes and public policies geared to ensuring the effective exercise of women's political rights, training strategies for men, with a view to arousing in them a sensitivity to women's political rights, and for women, with a view to helping to strengthen their capacity for leadership and for influencing public and political affairs; such training should have a strategic orientation and a sense of process, so that it does not translate into limited, isolated or uncoordinated activities;

s) To develop special plans for young women aimed at strengthening their capacity for and interest in leadership and influencing their choice of profession;

⁶ As has been recognized by the countries in various international instruments, most notably the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001.

t) To facilitate the exercise by women of their right to equal access to ownership and control of property, especially in rural areas;

u) To encourage shared responsibility for roles within the family so that they are more compatible with the actual activities of its members, promoting public policies to that end and the enactment of new legislation which contributes to an equitable distribution of duties and rights within the family; to design and implement, especially at the local level, programmes to support the family in performing new and complex functions, ensuring that they emphasize the aspects of solidarity and non-discrimination; and to establish child-care centres in neighbourhoods, business firms and government agencies;

v) To ensure maternity leave and promote the extension of leave to the fathers, in order to encourage both parents to share the responsibility for the care of their children, and to eliminate barriers to the hiring of women;

w) To promote programmes to enhance women's access to the labour market and to employment which take into consideration their control over resources; to implement political and legal reforms to prevent gender discrimination and set up mechanisms to help put an end to the division of labour between men and women and the segmentation of employment;

x) To establish mechanisms to encourage companies to hire and train women; to work to ensure that programmes of both the public and private sectors provide funding for training purposes which also benefit women;

y) To establish national mechanisms which permit the monitoring of compliance with international and national labour standards;

z) To create mechanisms for ensuring maximum dissemination of information on jobs, wages and legal norms; to give wide publicity to laws that guarantee the rights of citizens, both male and female, and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and to conduct campaigns to promote the image of women as subjects who have rights, capable of creating new frames of reference for themselves;

aa) To analyse the design and implementation of macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies and their impact on women's quality of life, with the participation of the Governments, ECLAC, the multilateral financial institutions and the organized women's movement, with the aim of taking appropriate measures to correct any negative effects of such policies;

bb) To urge regional and international organizations to provide financial and technical cooperation to conduct research and undertake other initiatives on women and poverty, paying particular attention to, inter alia, women's unpaid and low-paid work;

cc) To develop gender-sensitive teaching materials, classroom methods and curricula and gender-training programmes for teachers in order to break down gender stereotypes and offer non-discriminatory education and training aimed at the physical and intellectual development of girls and boys, recognizing that teacher training is an essential component of gender-sensitive programmes for eliminating the differential behavioural expectations of girls and boys that reinforce the division of labour by gender; to promote research into methods for improving teachers' capacity to impart gender-sensitive instruction and

to disseminate such methods widely in order to support the development of multicultural, gender-sensitive curricula in all areas of instruction;

dd) To support the establishment of education research centres, or strengthen those already existing, which would take responsibility for disseminating research findings within the region, thereby avoiding duplication and waste and maximizing scarce resources;

ee) To design and implement policies geared to raising women's earning potential (wage policies, job training and retraining, and support for microenterprises), ensuring adequate employment conditions in order to improve the situation of poor households;

ff) To carry out regular training programmes on gender awareness and planning for civil servants at both national and local government levels, in order to help them to analyse the different effects sectoral policies and programmes have on men and women and to ensure equality of opportunity;

gg) To accelerate action in promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres through the implementation of:

- i) Gender analysis and planning;
- ii) Gender management systems;
- iii) Gender impact assessments;

hh) To formulate and implement pilot programmes on the national level that apply the gender dimension to the planning process; a suggested theme is poverty eradication, which requires a multisectoral approach, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness and operativity of this type of planning;

ii) To emphasize the prevention of violence against women and children and the prosecution of offenders and urge the enactment of legislation where it does not already exist; to promote legal aid for poorer women to ensure their access to such legislation where it does exist, and the provision of counselling services for the victim and rehabilitation for the perpetrator of violence against women; to develop appropriate training, advocacy and awareness programmes for judicial, legal, medical, social, educational, media and police personnel to sensitize them to the nature of gender-based acts and threats of violence, to ensure fair treatment of female victims and compliance with legislation on violence against women and children;

jj) To conduct studies and adopt measures to enforce the implementation of international agreements related to women, within institutional frameworks;

kk) To support the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its monitoring of the related Convention;

ll) To contribute to the process of elaborating and revising the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

mm) To support and foster the active participation of citizens, particularly women, in ensuring the accountability of State commitments regarding development;

nn) To promote affirmative actions and programmes in order to eliminate inequality based on age, ethnicity or race, as well as socio-economic status, and to facilitate the access to development of those groups which have been discriminated against and marginalized;

oo) To continue making efforts to allocate and distribute new and additional resources from all available funding sources for development;

pp) To formulate and improve programmes aimed at protecting the health and sexual and reproductive rights of women, in accordance with the provisions adopted at the Cairo and Beijing Conferences;

qq) To develop and strengthen comprehensive preventive and health care programmes, designed specifically for women, that are accessible and cover both rural and urban areas and provide sufficient high-quality care, paying particular attention to the most common problems that limit their activity and shorten their lives, such as iron deficiency anaemia, malnutrition and frequent psychological and mental problems, often overlooked;

rr) To promote information, education and appropriate preventive and support services on sexual and reproductive health for adolescents, recognizing that pregnancy in adolescence has social and economic effects;

ss) To endorse the proposals which place emphasis on education in the exercise of full citizenship and urge the Governments to guarantee, through their women's offices and in collaboration with organizations in society, the operation of leadership training programmes for women holding public office; such programmes should permit the development of self-esteem and technical and political capabilities by women policy-makers from a gender perspective;

tt) To increase the coverage and quality of education and eliminate existing barriers preventing girls and adolescent women from enjoying this right, fundamental for the full exercise of citizenship; to expand the coverage of adult literacy programmes for women;

uu) To effectively address issues of women's poverty, as well as women's absence from positions of decision-making, which requires a parallel concern for issues of masculinity and traditional male attitudes and behaviour and their impact on areas of sexuality and relations of power and domination of women, recognizing that this is a growing concern in many countries of the region which needs to be examined with a view to promoting more positive male attitudes and behaviour in the private and public spheres;

vv) To promote the conduct of research on women and governance and gender socialization with a view to arriving at strategies to improve women's involvement in power and decision-making at all levels; and

ww) To promote access by women to modern communication media and state-of-the art technology through ongoing training.



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17 March 1998
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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Fifty-third session
Item 151 of the preliminary list*

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Letter dated 10 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of
Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the following documents:

The Declaration signed in Brasilia on 26 November 1997 by the Republic of Peru and the Republic of Ecuador and the Guarantor Countries of the 1942 Peruvian-Ecuadorian Protocol of Peace, Friendship and Boundaries of Rio de Janeiro (annex I);

The timetable for implementing the provisions of the Brasilia Declaration (annex II).

With regard to these documents, the Government of Peru wishes to inform you that, within the process of the substantive talks that are currently in progress, the two instruments are the only ones that have been signed to date and are, therefore, binding on both countries. I should be very grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 151 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando GUILLÉN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Peru to the United Nations

* A/53/50.



ANNEX 1

Declaration signed in Brasilia on 26 November 1997 by
Peru and Ecuador and the Guarantor Countries of the
1942 Peruvian-Ecuadorian Protocol of Peace, Friendship
and Boundaries of Rio de Janeiro

On Monday, 24 November, the second phase of the substantive talks between Ecuador and Peru conducted within the framework of the Santiago Agreement of 29 October 1996 began in Brasilia, the Federative Republic of Brazil.

On this occasion, the national delegations of Ecuador and Peru, the high representatives of the Guarantor Countries and the members of the Follow-up Commission appointed by the latter countries in order to collaborate in these talks were present.

Earlier, the Parties had received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil a document containing suggestions by the Guarantor Countries on principal points which might be used as elements to serve as a basis for discussion or to facilitate progress in this important process.

The Parties thanked the Guarantor Countries for their efforts, expressed satisfaction with that collaboration and made observations with regard to form and substance, clarifying their points of view. It was agreed that Ecuador and Peru would consider in good faith the following matters in accordance with the 1942 Protocol of Peace, Friendship and Boundaries of Rio de Janeiro and its additional instruments and on the basis of the 1995 Itamaraty Declaration of Peace:

- (a) Consideration of a treaty on trade and navigation under the terms provided for in article 6 of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol;
- (b) Consideration of a broad agreement on border integration;
- (c) Establishment on the ground of the common land border;
- (d) Establishment of a binational commission on measures for mutual trust and security.

At the same time, it was agreed that the Parties and the Follow-up Commission would draw up a timetable designed to promote the implementation of these proposals. The timetable will be finalized by the Parties and the Follow-up Commission.

The Parties and the high representatives of the Guarantor Countries expressed their satisfaction with the cordiality, elevated atmosphere and mutual respect with which these contacts took place and reiterated their readiness to continue to strive to make further progress in achieving the lofty objectives of

peace, friendship and understanding between Ecuador and Peru, to which they are committed, with the resulting benefits for the inter-American community.

(Signed) Edgar TERÁN TERÁN
(Ecuador)

(Signed) Fernando de TRAZEGNIES
(Peru)

(Signed) Luigi EINAUDI
(United States of America)

(Signed) Ivan CANNABRAVA
(Brazil)

(Signed) Juan MARTABIT
(Chile)

(Signed) Victor E. BEAUGE
(Argentina)

ANNEX 2

Timetable

1. Treaty on trade and navigation

The Parties shall set up an Ecuadorian-Peruvian commission which shall draw up a draft treaty on trade and navigation and whose members shall be appointed before 2 February 1998. The Parties shall exchange the lists of appointees and inform the Guarantor Countries.

On 2 February 1998, the Parties shall exchange preliminary draft agreements or, if they prefer, the basic points which, in the view of each of them, the treaty should contain, taking into consideration point 1 (a) of the document entitled "Bases for an understanding between the Parties", submitted by the Guarantors on 25 November 1997.

On 17 February 1998, the commission shall begin its work in Buenos Aires. The Guarantor Countries shall be present and shall assist the commission.

The commission shall also consider aspects linked to navigation in the sectors with sections of rivers and the Napo river, which shall be the subject of a specific agreement.

2. Border integration

The Parties shall set up a commission to draw up a draft broad agreement on border integration no later than 2 February 1998. The commission shall begin its work no later than 17 February 1998 in Washington.

The Parties shall keep the Guarantor Countries informed with regard to the progress made in this work.

This commission will also consider ways to manage river basins, including the Zarumilla basin.

3. Establishing on the ground the common land border

The Parties shall set up, no later than 2 February 1998, an Ecuadorian-Peruvian commission entrusted with the task of completing the establishment on the ground of the common land border in the Lagartococha sector and the Zamora-Santiago and/or the Cordillera del Cóndor sector. The committee shall begin its work on 17 February 1998 in Brasilia.

Two legal-technical groups, each consisting of five members, shall be set up in order to assist the Commission. The Parties shall appoint one member of each group and the Guarantor Countries shall propose the remaining three members of each group to the Parties. Once the list of members proposed by the Guarantors to the Parties has been accepted, the two groups shall be established.

The commission shall, on the basis of the presentations made during the first phase, identify the disagreements which are to be the subject of consideration and findings by the two legal-technical groups. Those disagreements which are indicated in the presentations made during the first phase but have not been submitted to the legal-technical groups shall be formally resolved and settled when the Parties reach an overall and definitive agreement.

The two groups shall submit to the commission their views, relating to technical matters and in accordance with the law, on the disagreements which have been submitted for consideration and on the ways to establish on the ground the common border, pursuant to article VIII of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol and its additional instruments, which shall be evaluated from the legal point of view by the respective groups.

The commission shall submit a proposal on a solution to the Parties. Once the proposal has been accepted, the commission shall, with the assistance of the legal-technical groups and within a period of 15 working days, complete the desk work necessary in order to indicate on a map the plan set forth in the proposal with the respective geographic coordinates, identifying the sites where border markers are to be erected once the overall and definitive agreement has been formally reached. In the meantime, neither the preparatory desk work, nor the views of the legal-technical groups, nor the proposal of the Commission shall be binding on the Parties.

The border markers shall be erected and formally established by a binational team as soon as the aforementioned overall agreement has been signed, taking into account the fact that no provision of the agreement shall enter into force until the last border marker has been put in place and formally established.

If any disagreement arises, the Guarantor Countries shall propose, in accordance with the fourth section of the Santiago Agreement, procedures to resolve any dispute regarding the work of establishing on the ground the common border, to which reference is made in the foregoing paragraphs.

4. Measures for mutual trust and security

The Parties shall appoint, by 2 February 1998 at the latest, an Ecuadorian-Peruvian commission entrusted with the task of studying the establishment and functioning of a binational commission on measures for mutual trust and security. The commission shall begin its work on 17 February 1998 in Santiago.

The Parties shall keep the Guarantor Countries informed with regard to the progress made in this work.

5. Follow-up

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru shall evaluate the implementation of the process described in this document and shall maintain ongoing direct contact. To this end, the national delegations shall meet as often as is deemed necessary, with the Guarantor countries in attendance.

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6. Deadlines and procedures for adoption

Work on each of the questions referred to shall be carried out simultaneously. The agreements reached shall enter into force together with the completion of the demarcation process. The Parties shall undertake to join efforts to ensure the completion of this process by 30 May 1998 at the latest.

7. Other matters

Zarumilla channel

The Parties shall, by 2 February 1998 at the latest, establish a working group responsible for drawing up a set of measures to ensure the effective operation of the Zarumilla channel and the use of its waters in accordance with the Aranha formula.

8. Moratorium

The Parties agree to maintain confidentiality with respect to the carrying out of the work referred to in this timetable.

DONE at Itamaraty Palace, Rio de Janeiro, on 19 January 1998.

For the Republic of Ecuador:

[Signed] Edgar TERÁN TERÁN

For the Republic of Peru:

[Signed] Fernando de TRAZEGNIES

For the Guarantor Countries:

Argentine Republic:

[Signed] Alfredo CHIARADIA

Federative Republic of Brazil:

[Signed] Iván CANNABRAVA

Republic of Chile:

[Signed] Juan MARTABIT

United States of America:

[Signed] Luigi EINAUDI



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Fifty-third session

Item 113 (b) of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS
QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE
APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE
EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 18 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the President of the Republic of Serbia, H.E. Mr. Milan Milutinovic, on the political process in Kosovo and Metohija.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

Statement dated 18 March 1998 by the President of the Republic
of Serbia on the political process in Kosovo and Metohija

Hesitation with, and the postponement of, the beginning of direct political dialogue between the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and Albanian political parties in Kosovo and Metohija is unjustified and harmful. It postpones the elimination of tension and blocks the political process of the solution of the questions on which depends the realization of equality of all citizens and the affirmation of peace, tolerance and mutual respect in Kosovo and Metohija.

I call on the leaders of the political parties of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija to commence political dialogue without postponement or conditioning. In my capacity of President of the Republic of Serbia, I am ready to be guarantor of such talks on the principle of preserving the territorial integrity and including in the agenda the questions of self-government in Kosovo and Metohija within Serbia.

Political means and a peaceful road are the only ones acceptable for the solution of the problems in Kosovo and Metohija. It is only through dialogue that lasting solutions to all problems can be achieved in which the main point of departure is the realization of the principle of equality of all citizens, including also the equal rights of members of national minorities, in accordance with the highest international standards of the United Nations, OSCE and the Council of Europe.

I emphasize the importance of the continued involvement and presence of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the realization of humanitarian activities. The competent authorities will guarantee all conditions for its normal work also in the future.

I consider that the international community, in particular the countries of the region, should refrain, pursuant to international standards, from everything that increases tension and encourages separatism or constitutes interference in our internal affairs.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a European country, is committed to the values and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Helsinki Document and the Paris Charter and has opted for active participation in contemporary integrative processes. Serbia, within the FR of Yugoslavia, is interested in, and open to, cooperation with OSCE, which implies restoration of membership rights and obligations to our country, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. To that end, cooperation should be renewed with the OSCE mission of longer duration on a contractual basis, similar to the former mission, the work of which in 1998 showed positive results and presented the picture of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija to the international community with greater objectivity.

The education of the young generation is one of the most important existential questions. I therefore invite the 3 + 3 Group to proceed immediately with the implementation of the Agreement on Education Normalization. It will be a stimulus also to the solution of other questions and a successful realization of the rights and interests of all citizens in Kosovo and Metohija.

I emphasize my conviction that the future of the citizens in Kosovo and Metohija, as well as in Serbia and in our entire country, is not in ethnic, religious or cultural self-isolation and divisions, but in peace, equality, interlinkage and common life.

I am confident that all citizens and the responsible political forces of Serbia and our country as a whole support the policy of equality of citizens, preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity and open and equitable cooperation with other countries and the international community.



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(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** A/53/50.

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